

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
Ralph C. Link, Pastor
Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 9:00 A.M.
Christ Church, Duncannon 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP June 18, 1972

The Organ Prelude
*The Hymn of Praise 461
*The Call to Worship
*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)
Almighty God, we come to you as little children. We know that we have disobeyed you; we have followed the paths of least resistance and like a stream in a meadow we have no purpose to our lives. Too often we seek our ease and comfort at the expense of others. We seek to further ourselves, while those we consider beneath us are pushed aside. For all of these sins we ask your forgiveness, and we pray for new guidance for future days, as well as new desire to do your will. Help us to follow the pathway of righteousness, in the footsteps of your son Jesus. Amen.
*The Kyrie
*The Assurance of Pardon
The Scripture----Matthew 18:1-10
*The Gloria Patri
The Anthem (Trinity)
The Pastoral Prayer
The Announcements
The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings
*The Doxology
*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer
The Hymn of Meditation 458
The Sermon----"Little Children"
The Sermon Prayer
*The Hymn of Response 460
*The Benediction
*The Threefold Amen
*The Postlude

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The flowers on the altar are placed in memory of Rodney Reisinger and Edwin Sausman by their grandchildren Danny, Mari Jo, and Craig Sausman.

Summer Communion will be celebrated next Sunday June 25th in both churches.

The semi-annual meeting of the Homewood Women's Auxiliary will be held on Wed. June 21st at Sadler Home at 2:30 PM.

The officers of the Ladies group of the church for the coming year are President, Edna Boggs; Vice President, Virginia Lash; Secretary, Shirley Link; Treasurer, Martha Grenoble.

*RUG IN NURSERY MADE PUNISHER
BY EARL & VIRGINIA LASH*

*AMERICAN GIVING TO CHURCH FOR MISSIONS
43 CENTS*

MAN FROM UNITED BOARD FOR WORLD MISSIONS

Little Children

FATHER'S DAY
OR
CHILDREN'S DAY

Text: Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he has grown, he will not depart from it."

PROVERBS

Matthew 18:3, "Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

Today being Father's Day, what more appropriate way to celebrate it than by observing children's day. If this seems unappropriate, we may ask, "Just what ~~xxxx~~ is it that makes a man a father?" The answer of course is children. Hence the celebration of children's day on Father's day.

Children are very enigmatic figures to grown-ups. They can be little devils or little angels. They can be fun to have around and they can make us ~~wish~~ they were out of sight. Who else could seek out all of the mud puddles, soiling his good clothes, and be punished and do the same thing and be ~~mpunished~~ again, and lay in his little bed looking like an angel while he sleeps, but a little boy. Who else can be a little imp, that gets into all kinds of mischief, and yet grins at you with a face that could melt stone, but a little girl.

They make us love them in spite of ourselves, and they make us absolute ogres at times, but we can't get along without them. God created something wonderful when he created children.

They are good for some of the best laughs available. The story is told of the little girl who was so sleepy she could hardly keep her eyes open while her sister prayed. So when it came her turn she said, "Dear God, ~~she~~~~said~~~~everything~~~~I~~~~wanted~~ everything she said, goes for me too, Amen." A little boy was afraid of thunder and lightning, so one night when his mother was putting him to bed on a particularly stormy evening, she told him that the thunder and lightning would not hurt him. She told him that God was right there with him and he would be alright. When she thought she had calmed him sufficiently she went downstairs and shortly a loud crash of thunder was heard and the little boy came running downstairs. He said, "Mommy, you go upstairs with God, and I'll stay down here

Train Up A Child

Text: Matthew 18; 3-6 & Proverbs 22;6

~~We have a special service to Mothers, and we had a special~~
~~son for good old Dad. Now it is only fitting and proper that we devote one~~
~~to the little ones.~~ We all are involved with children in one way or another, so
~~ADULTS~~
before you ¹tune me out let me add that although I am talking about children, I
am not just talking to them.

Our Scripture this morning has quite a bit of meat in it. Jesus said some things that should make everyone who is a professing Christian look ^{AND ESPECIALLY CHILDREN} at life a little more closely. He ~~tells~~ us the responsibility of change, He teaches us the responsibility of teaching rightly, and He teaches us the value of a child.

Jesus in speaking to His disciples told them, "Unless you change and become like little children you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. The ^{IN THIS SENTENCE} key word is change. He was giving a warning to His followers. He was telling them that unless they do a turn about in their lives they were going in the wrong direction. They were facing away from the kingdom instead of towards it. The game of life as it is often called is strictly a matter of what it is each man is seeking. Does he or she seek only self fulfilment? Is he or she only concerned with self? Is he or she aiming at personal ambition? Or personal prestige? If he or she is concerned with any or all of these things then they are headed away from the kingdom of God. To be a citizen of this kingdom requires that a person be forgetful of self and self gratification. It means the spending of life in service and not at power. As long as a man considers himself the most important thing in the world, he is ~~turning~~ his ~~back~~ to the kingdom. He must turn around. Change in other words and face in the opposite direction and look down the path of life that Jesus trod. That ^{PATH} of help and service.

Jesus took a little child we are told and put the child in front of them and told them to change and be like that child. An ancient legend handed down tells us that this particular child grew up to be Ignatius of Antioch. This man became a great servant of the early Church, a great writer, and a martyr for Christ. This legend is based on the fact that Ignatius had the surname of Theophoros, which means God carried or God borne. And the tradition has it that

he was ~~named~~ given this name because Jesus carried him on His knee. It has also been thought that perhaps the boy Jesus had on His knee was Peter's son. Since it was Peter who asked the question. But regardless of ~~who~~ the real identity of the boy, the thought brought out by Jesus was the wonderful qualities of a child. Children have the most remarkable qualities. They can wonder about things and ~~never~~ ponder what we adults take for granted. They can forgive and forget while we adults hold grudges and remember our hurts from other people. And they have that innocence about them that is seldom if ever seen in an adult. But there are a ~~few~~ couple of more qualities that perhaps stand out much more. First there is the quality of humility. A child is not pushy usually. If he is it is usually caused by some adult pushing him. A child does not want to be out in the forefront. Generally a child is content to stay in the background. ^{AND} Then a child is dependent. He relies on his parents or grandparents. He is content to let ~~those~~ in charge of him be concerned over the necessities of life. Isn't it a shame that men cannot rely on God in this fashion? To be as dependent as a child would make this world a much better place in which to live. Men would not have the great differences that separate them. And then ~~there~~ a child is trusting. He will accept life as it is without worry or care. He believes that all is well. I was watching four young boys playing ~~this past week~~ ^{NOT LONG AGO}. Two of them were white and two were black. They were wrestling and thoroughly enjoying themselves as children will when I first passed them. When I drove past them on my way out of town they were all seated close together in the shade of this big tree drinking pop. They didn't mistrust each other as grownups do. ^{IT IS THE ADULTS WHO SOW THE SEEDS OF PREJUDICE IN THEIR MINDS.} They didn't care that their skins ~~were~~ different colors. ^{WE'RE} This didn't even enter into their play. All that mattered was that they were ^{STAYING OUTSIDE TO ED SHAW & JEANNE DAY.} having fun together and enjoying life together. And this is what we must become. ^{AS} ~~WE~~ Little children accepting mankind ~~as~~ being other creatures of God and not other people to be mistrusted. If we could all change this way it would certainly be a change for the better. ^{EVENTUALLY PREJUDICE & CLASS HATRED WILL LEARN TO BECOME UNIMPORTANT. AND IT IS THE GROWING GENERATIONS WILL BE THE ONES TO DO IT, IF WE DON'T SOW OUR SEED IN THEM.} Who Jesus goes on to tell that no one should lay anything in the way of the proper upbringing of children. One of the most unromantic jobs in the world is to be the tender of pots and pans and endless washbaskets filled with dirty grimy little clothes. Of scrubbing and scouring dirty knees and elbows. But isn't this doing what Jesus said? Looking after His little ones. There is another task

that deserves a lot of thanks too and this is the job of the teacher. Those who ~~do~~ ^{EDUCATING} vote their time and their energy to the training and ~~bringing~~ of the minds of little ones. These people deserve our thanks and unending gratitude. Whether they are part time teachers such as sunday school teachers, or whether they are full time public school teachers. We each one owe them a debt of thanks. For this is ~~we~~ also doing the will of Christ.

To teach another person to sin was considered the greatest sin by the Jews. They held that a mans own sins can be forgiven, but if he taught someone else to sin, this person perhaps taught someone else and so on. There is nothing more terrible than to destroy ~~someones~~ ^{THE} ~~OF SOMEONE ELSE~~ ^{OF SOMEONE ELSE}. The story is told of ~~An~~ ^{an} old man lying on his deathbed who was greatly disturbed. No one could get the real reason from him. Finally someone was able to get him to confide his secret. The old man said, "When we were boys at play, one day at a crossroads, we reversed a signpost so that its arms were pointing in the wrong direction. I've never ceased to wonder how many people were sent in the wrong direction by what ~~we~~ did." How many people have you and I sent in the wrong direction by what we ~~we~~ ^{or said} have done? A grave responsibility indeed, to protect the innocence of others.

The value of a child is a very important thing. There are children in the world today that no one cares about. They are just so much excess baggage to everyone around them. Anyone who cares for children or even thinks that they ~~are~~ worth something, can be appalled at the conditions and cruel fates that are and have been ~~bestowed~~ upon innocent children. My first impression of what war and fighting produces was witnessed on a cold February day in 1952 traveling across Korea in a truck to get to my assigned company. We had landed at Inchon the night before and were on our way to join our groups. The temperature ~~was~~ hovered around ten below. We passed through a burned out deserted Korean village. At least it seemed deserted. But standing on the snow covered ground in bare feet, or feet wrapped in dirty filthy rags was a group of young children. They were not too old. ^{probably around eight or ten years of age.} And here they were, the dirtiest bunch ^{WEARING RAGS OR WHATEVER THEY COULD FIND} of kids you have ever seen, ¹ sorting through an old trash barrel looking for something to eat. Like dogs looking through garbage. Whenever they found something the others would try to take it ~~next~~ away from the finder. Seeing a sight such

Shirley & Ralph Charles Link, Nancy Link, Dale with Lianne his wife, Lloyd Link with Karen his wife
Jessica in front of Ralph C. Link
Ethan and Alica in front of R. Dale and Lianne Link (the eldest son & family)









Ralph C. Link
153 Keck Road
Sarver, Pa. 16055
(412) 352-1103

Born: April 9, 1929, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Married: December 15, 1951

Wife: Shirley Margaret Neill

Born: December 8, 1930, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Children: Ralph Dale Link, born May 11, 1955, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Lloyd Alan Link, born May 28, 1958, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Nancy Lynn Link, born March 15, 1961, Butler, Pa.

SCHOOLING:

Graduated from Perry High School, Pittsburgh, Pa.
June 1947

Lay Ministry School, Penn West Conference of United
Church of Christ, September 1965 to May 1969

Commissioned Lay Minister June 1969

Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa.,
September 1970

Graduated from Lancaster Theological Seminary May 1974

Ordained to Christian Ministry March 10, 1974

PASTORATES:

As Lay Minister: short term, 1 month or less in
various churches 1965 to 1967

Emlenton Lamartine Charge of United Church of Christ
1967 to 1969

Short term in various churches 1970 until Seminary
entrance July 1970

July 1970 to December 1973 Student Pastor at Trinity
Charge, New Bloomfield, Duncannon, Pa., Penn Central
Conference, United Church of Christ

December 1973 to present, St. Paul's United Church of
Christ, Butler, Pa., Penn West Conference, United
Church of Christ

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

OF

Ralph C. Link

I am the youngest of five children. I was born just prior to the onset of the Depression. Our family was very poor. My father was an alcoholic and my mother was a very religious person who was searching for the Lord. During my childhood she did her best to teach me the things of the Lord. Later in life she came to a personal relationship with Him.

I grew up in the Evangelical and Reformed Church where salvation by grace alone was not preached nor taught. I knew all about Jesus, what He did, how He lived, His miracles, His death and resurrection, but I didn't know Him personally.

My life had many ups and downs and all the while I was attending church and striving with my good works to please God. At a very low point in my life when we were deeply in debt and my wife and three children were all ill, I came to the crossroads. I watched a Billy Graham Crusade on television from some distant city and the message he preached seemed to be directed right at me. I wrestled with making that commitment to Christ, but didn't. The next afternoon and evening at work on the 4 to 12 shift I came to the conclusion that I needed to make that commitment to Christ. It seemed like there was no other choice if life was to have any meaning. That night when I came home from work at 1:00 A.M., I laid face down on the living room floor and told God that I couldn't live my life in my own strength and I accepted the gift of salvation from my Savior Jesus Christ. My life has never been the same.

Through several meaningful circumstances I was called by God to serve Him in the Christian Ministry and to help spread that wonderful message of salvation through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. What a wonderful and rewarding time it has been and I give Him all the praise for my salvation and the opportunity to serve Him.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

OF

Ralph C. Link

I believe the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments to be the inspired inerrant Word of God. I believe the Bible is the complete revelation of His will for the salvation of men and it is the final authority for the Christian faith and life.

I believe in one God, who is eternally existent in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Diety of the Lord Jesus Christ that He is true God and true man. I believe that He was born of the Virgin Mary, that He lived in sinless life, that He performed the miracles recorded in Scripture, that He died on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins, that He bodily arose from the dead, that He ascended on high where He is at the right hand of Almighty God as our intercessor.

I believe in the Holy Spirit and that He comes and indwells each believer at the time of conversion. I believe that He lives in each believer to lead, to instruct, and to convict so that a believer may live a more godly life.

I believe that through the shed blood of Jesus Christ and through His resurrection, this is the only ground for justification and salvation for all who receive Him A Lord and Savior and to such as receive Him, they are born of the Holy Spirit and become children of God.

I believe water baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of the Church but are not means of salvation.

I believe in the personal and premillennial and imminent coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I believe in the resurrection of the dead, for the believer to resurrection of life and joy with the Lord, for the unbeliever to resurrection of judgement and everlasting punishment.